

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Reverend Leary E. Bonnett.

# RECOGNIZING KERN RIVER OIL FIELD'S TWO BILLIONTH BARREL OF OIL PRODUCED

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important milestone achieved in oil production in my district as the Kern River Oil Field recently produced its two billionth barrel of oil.

Over 100 years ago in 1899, "black gold" was discovered at Kern River when a father-son team hand-dug a 45 foot deep discovery well. This oil discovery set off a boom in Kern County leading to population growth and the discovery of more and more oil fields in the region. In 1903, Kern River, in addition to other oil fields discovered at the turn of the region, made California the top oil-producing state in the Union. In fact, in 1904, Kern River produced more than 17.2 million barrels of oil, which, at that time, was more oil produced than in the entire State of Texas.

In the early 1900's, oil production peaked at nearly 50,000 barrels per day, and then decreased to an average of about 10,000 barrels per day. However, due to human ingenuity, hard work, the advent of the steam injection (or "steamflooding") oil production process in the early 1960's, and cogeneration in the 1980's, today, Kern River produces approximately 82,000 barrels of oil per day.

With its production of the two billionth barrel of oil, Kern River joins only two other fields in a select, elite class of oil fields in California that have produced over two billion barrels of oil. Just to put this into perspective, two billion barrels of oil, once refined, on average, yields more than 43 billion gallons of gasoline. Subsequently, the Kern River Oil Field is the fourth largest field in the lower United States, the third largest field in California, and the second largest field in Kern County.

Today, Chevron North America Exploration and Production owns and produces nearly all of the oil at Kern River. A vital economic backbone of Kern County, Chevron at Kern River employs more than 345 individuals and has upwards of 800 contractors working at the field, and creates countless secondary and tertiary oil and non-oil related jobs in the community. In addition, Chevron at Kern River contributes more than \$24 million in property taxes to the County of Kern on an annual basis, and is a community leader in supporting various education and charitable causes.

Kern River is a heavy crude oil field, meaning the oil is a thick, viscous liquid that needs to be heated and pumped out of the ground. Generally, primary heavy oil recovery extracts between 5–10 percent of the oil from the ground, while hot waterflood recovery processes increase that recovery rate to between 15–25 percent. Yet, the steamflood recovery process can increase recovery rates to 50–80 percent. With the steamflood technological recovery advances of Chevron at Kern River, Chevron has been able to maximize production of the vast oil reserves of this field and has extended the life of this field for decades.

As a leader in heavy oil production, Chevron has established an International Heavy Oil Center at Kern River in order to collaboratively develop and deploy heavy oil production technologies worldwide, as well as to become a hub for heavy oil development. These technological advances developed at Kern River, as well as at other fields, will increase the ability of the industry to maximize the Earth's oil reserves' potential and help satisfy our energy demands.

What started out in 1899 as one hand-dug well, Kern River has developed into one of the largest oil fields in the United States with more than 9,000 producing oil wells. Again, I rise today to recognize the importance of Kern River producing its two billionth barrel of oil and to join with Chevron in celebrating this milestone. I look forward to continued production at this field for many years to come.

# TRIBUTE TO FULTON-MIDDLETON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to the Fulton-Middleton High School football team for reaching the Michigan High School Athletic Association 2007 Division Eight State Championship Game. It was the team's first finals appearance since winning the 1998 State championship.

The Fulton-Middleton Pirates lost a hard-fought final game to Crystal Falls Forrest Park High School. In the defensive battle, they pulled within one score of the Crystal Falls Trojans late in the fourth quarter, but were unable to get back the ball to attempt a game-tying drive. It was the Pirates only loss of the season. On the road to the final game, the Pirates defeated Fowler, New Lothrop, Our Lady of the Lakes, and Climax-Scotts in the playoffs.

The Pirates accomplishments pay testament to the years of hard work and dedication of these student athletes. I commend them on a successful season.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Michigan, I congratulate the Fulton-Middleton High School football team on their achievements and wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

# RECOGNIZING FORT DODGE, IOWA CITY COUNCILWOMAN JANE BURLESON

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fort Dodge, Iowa City councilwoman, Jane Burleson, for her 24 years of distinguished public service to the people of Fort Dodge.

In 1982, the citizens of Fort Dodge elected Jane as the first woman and first African American to serve on the council. Jane overcame many barriers to serve and contributed

a fresh and different perspective. Her dedication and commitment to improving the city is a true measurement of her leadership and care for her community. Jane's guiding presence on the council will certainly be missed, but the legacy she leaves will inspire many to dream big reach high and achieve great accomplishments.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Jane Burleson for her leadership and service to Fort Dodge, Iowa. I consider it an honor to represent Jane in Congress and I wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

# HONORING LT. THOMAS CHRISTENSEN AND FIREFIGHTER JEREMY BROWN OF THE WAUKEGAN FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Thomas Christensen and Firefighter Jeremy Brown of the Waukegan Fire Department.

As Hazardous Device Technicians, Lt. Christensen and Firefighter Brown were the driving force behind the City of Waukegan's effort to secure a grant from the Illinois Terrorism Task Force for an Andros F6A Robot and transport vehicle to better respond to hazardous device incidents.

Currently there are only 12 bomb squads in Illinois. The Waukegan squad services Lake and McHenry counties in northeastern Illinois. Last year, the squad responded to more than 40 bomb calls. The most notable was a bank robbery where the suspect claimed to have an explosive device which he left on the teller counter after fleeing the crime scene.

With the F6A Robot and transport vehicle, the Waukegan Fire Department is better equipped to respond to bomb related calls. This equipment would not be possible without the diligence of Lt. Christensen and Firefighter Brown. The two men conceived the idea, developed the justifications and specifications and oversaw the construction.

Lt. Christensen and Firefighter Brown represent an outstanding division that was first formed in 1971. The team consists of several certified bomb squad members who put their lives on the line on a daily basis for northeastern Illinois.

I am proud of the achievements of these fine first responders.

# TRIBUTE TO BERNIE FECHTEL

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this moment to recognize the work of